

Remarks/Arguments

The present amendment is made in response to the Final Office Action dated December 16, 2005, and identified as Paper No. 20051212. Claims 1-13 and 5-7 remain pending in the application.

In the Final Action, claim 4 was objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but was otherwise allowable. Claims 1, 3, and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,947,391 to Beck; claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Beck in view of U.S. Patent 6,517,281 to Rissi, as were claims 8-10.

In view of the finality of the rejection, Applicant has taken objection to claim 4 and placed it into condition for allowance by incorporating it into claim 1. Claim 4 has been canceled. The remaining claims stemming from claim 1, namely claims 2, 3, and 5-7 remain pending and are believed allowable in view of the amendment to claim 1.

Claims 8-10 have been withdrawn from consideration without prejudice to Applicant's right to seek coverage for the invention defined therein through a continuation filing. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contentions regarding the rejection of these claims, but instead of delaying prosecution of the present application, will instead seek coverage through a continuation filing, if it deems it desirable.

A petition for a one month extension of time is filed concurrently herewith.

In view of the amendments as accompanied by these foregoing remarks, the Examiner's reconsideration and allowance of the present application is requested. If the Examiner believes a phone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, please contact the undersigned at (315) 218-8515. Please charge Deposit Account 50-1546 for any deficiencies or credit any over-payment with regard to this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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